CLAIMS

1.   An information processing method for encrypting encoded image data, comprising:

5   a step of inputting encoded image data;

a step of encrypting the input encoded image data; and

a step of changing presence/absence information, which is contained in header data of the encoded image
10   data indicates presence/absence of an error-detecting code, to the absence of the error-detecting code, and outputting the encrypted encoded image data.

2.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of outputting decryption key
15   information required to decrypt encrypted data.

3.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of saving the presence/absence information in the input encoded image data at another location in the header data.

20   4.   The method according to claim 3, wherein the saving step includes a step of saving the presence/absence information in the header data as a comment.

5.   An information processing method for decrypting
25   image data encrypted by an information processing method of claim 3, comprising:

a step of inputting encoded image data;

a first checking step of checking whether or not the saved presence/absence information indicates the presence of the error-detecting code;

a second checking step of checking whether or not
5   key information required to decrypt encrypted data is available; and

a step of changing, when it is determined in the first and second checking steps that the error-detecting code is present and the decryption key
10   information is available, the presence/absence information contained in the header data to the presence of the error-detecting code, decrypting the encrypted data, and passing the decrypted data to an encoded image data decoding process.

15   6.   The method according to claim 5, wherein when it is determined in the first and second checking steps that the error-detecting code is absent and the decryption key information is available, the encrypted data is decrypted without changing the presence/absence
20   information in the header data.

7.   The method according to claim 5, wherein when it is determined in the first and second checking steps that the decryption key information is not available, the input encoded image data is directly passed to the
25   encoded image data decoding process.

8.   An information processing apparatus for encrypting encoded image data, comprising:

a unit for inputting encoded image data;

a unit for encrypting the input encoded image data; and

a unit for changing presence/absence information,

5   which is contained in header data of the encoded image data and indicates presence/absence of an error-detecting code, to the absence of the error-detecting code, and outputting the encrypted encoded image data.

10   9.   A computer program which functions as an information processing apparatus for encrypting encoded image data, when said program is loaded and executed by a computer, said program functioning as:

a unit for inputting encoded image data;

15   a unit for encrypting the input encoded image data; and

a unit for changing presence/absence information indicating presence/absence of an error-detecting code contained in header data of encoded data to the absence

20   of the error-detecting code, and outputting the encrypted encoded image data.

10.   A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program of claim 9.

11.   An information processing method for encrypting

25   encoded image data, comprising:

a step of inputting encoded image data;

a step of decoding and encrypting the input encoded image data;

a step of checking presence/absence information which is contained in header data of the input encoded
5   image data and indicates presence/absence of an error-detecting code; and

a re-encoding control step of re-encoding, when it is determined in the checking step that the error-detecting code is absent, the encrypted image
10   data, and appending, when it is determined in the checking step that the error-detecting code is present, a segmentation symbol indicating the presence of the error-detecting code to the image data encrypted in the encryption step, and re-encoding the encrypted image
15   data appended with the segmentation symbol.

12.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the decoding step includes a step of performing entropy decoding, and the re-encoding control step includes a step of performing entropy encoding.

20   13.   An information processing method for decrypting image data encrypted and encoded by an information processing method of claim 11, comprising:

a step of inputting encrypted encoded image data;

a step of decoding the encoded image data input
25   in the input step;

an encoding step of decrypting the encrypted image data on the basis of key information required to

decrypt encrypted data, and re-encoding the decrypted data; and

a step of outputting the re-encoded data to a low-order encoded image data decoding process.

5 14.   An information processing method for encrypting encoded image data, comprising:

a unit for inputting encoded image data;

a unit for decoding and encrypting the input encoded image data;

10   a unit for checking presence/absence information which is contained in header data of the input encoded image data and indicates presence/absence of an error-detecting code; and

a re-encoding control unit for, when said

15 checking unit determines that the error-detecting code is absent, re-encoding the encrypted image data, and for, when said checking unit determines that the error-detecting code is present, appending a segmentation symbol indicating the presence of the

20 error-detecting code to the image data encrypted by said encryption unit, and re-encoding the encrypted image data appended with the segmentation symbol.

15.   A computer program which functions as an information processing apparatus for encrypting encoded

25 image data, when said program is loaded and executed by a computer, said program functioning as:

a unit for inputting encoded image data;

a unit for decoding and encrypting the input encoded image data;

a unit for checking presence/absence information which is contained in header data of the input encoded
5   image data and indicates presence/absence of an error-detecting code; and

a re-encoding control unit for, when said checking unit determines that the error-detecting code is absent, re-encoding the encrypted image data, and
10   for, when said checking unit determines that the error-detecting code is present, appending a segmentation symbol indicating the presence of the error-detecting code to the image data encrypted by said encryption unit, and re-encoding the encrypted
15   image data appended with the segmentation symbol.

16.   A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program of claim 15.